

Classroom Discussion: U.S. Immigration in the 19th Century

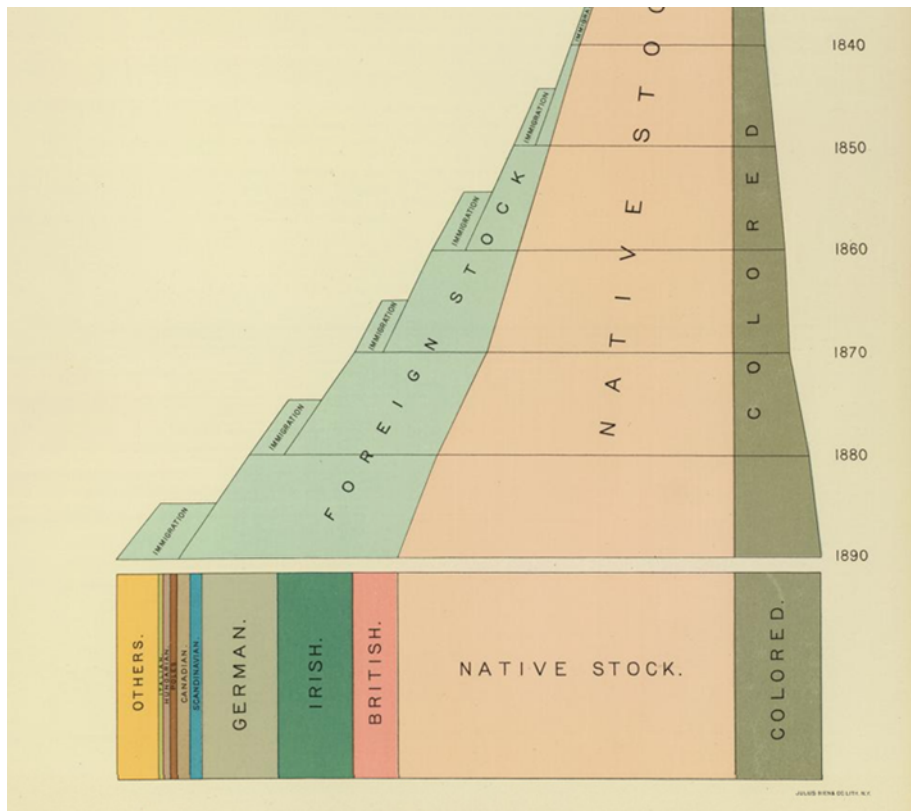
Description:

In this activity, students examine a historical chart depicting the makeup of the United States' by three population categories – “foreign stock,” “native stock,” and “colored”. In examining and discussing the chart, students gain a general understanding of the makeup of the U.S. population in the decades prior to World War I and discuss how the issues of immigration and foreign-born immigrants tied into the changing role of the United States in world affairs in the early 20th Century.

Standard:

The Emergence of Modern America (1890-1930) Standard 2: The changing role of the United States in world affairs through World War I

Materials:



Activity Instructions for Students

Use the chart “Growth of the Elements of the Population: 1790 to 1890” to answer the suggested discussion questions.

Activity Assessment

Suggested Questions:

1. What is depicted in this chart?

2. According to the chart, during which decade of the 19th Century did the United States have the greatest amount of immigration?
3. According to the chart, what were the major originating countries of immigrants during the 19th Century?
4. Consider the major events leading up to World War I. How did immigration into the United States tie into the themes of American neutrality, maintaining democracy and building national identity in the period leading up to and during World War I?

Teacher's Notes

Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to examine and interpret a historical chart (published in 1898) depicting the growth of the makeup of the United States' population and major waves of immigration during the 19th Century.
- Students will be able to relate evidence drawn from a historical chart to major issues and themes of the events leading up to and during World War I.

Blooms Taxonomy

Analyzing

Instructions for Teachers

Have students work individually or in groups to examine the "Growth of the Elements of the Population: 1790 to 1890" and respond to the "Suggested Discussion Questions."